

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A wiper blade for a wiper system that wipes a wiping surface, the wiper blade comprising:

an elongated blade rubber that wipes the wiping surface;

at least one backing plate that extends in a longitudinal direction of the blade rubber and is connected to the blade rubber, wherein each backing plate is curved in a direction generally perpendicular to the wiping surface and is made of a spring material, which has spring resiliency in the direction generally perpendicular to the wiping surface;

at least one holding lever that holds the blade rubber and the at least one backing plate; and

a cover member that includes a front surface wall and a rear surface wall, which are connected to each other to form a cap-shaped elongated body that is made of a flexible material and has a relatively thin wall thickness, wherein:

the cap-shaped elongated body has a base end opening at a base end thereof, and that receives the at least one holding lever and the at least one backing plate arranged within the base end opening; wherein

the front surface wall has a tilted outer surface that is tilted relative to the wiping surface to form a fin;

the cover member is flexibly deformable in response to flexing movement of the at least one holding lever and of the at least one backing plate arranged within the base end opening of the cover member, when the wiper blade wipes the wiping surface.

2. (Original) The wiper blade according to claim 1, wherein the cover member is directly secured to the at least one backing plate:

3. (Original) The wiper blade according to claim 2, wherein the base end of the cover member is directly secured to a peripheral edge of each of the at least one backing plate.

4. (Original) The wiper blade according to claim 3, wherein:

the base end of the cover member includes at least one recessed holding groove; and

the peripheral edge of each of the at least one backing plate is received in a corresponding one of the at least one recessed holding groove.

5. (Original) The wiper blade according to claim 4, wherein:

the at least one backing plate includes two backing plates;

the at least one recessed holding groove of the base end of the cover member includes two recessed holding grooves; and

the two backing plates are received in the two recessed holding grooves, respectively.

6. (Original) The wiper blade according to claim 3, wherein:

the blade rubber includes:

a wiping lip that directly contacts and wipes the wiping surface; and

a base that tiltably supports the wiping lip and holds the at least one backing plate;

and

the cover member covers an entire lateral perimeter of the base of the blade rubber.

7. (Original) The wiper blade according to claim 1, further comprising a connecting clip that is connected to a corresponding wiper arm of the wiper system and is also connected to the

at least one holding lever, wherein the cover member is made as a single member and receives the connecting clip in such a manner that the cover member covers a lateral surface of the connecting clip.

8. (Original) The wiper blade according to claim 1, wherein:

a tilt angle of the tilted outer surface of the front surface wall of the cover member, which forms the fin, is an acute angle with respect to the wiping surface; and

the tilt angle of tilted outer surface of the front surface wall progressively increases from a longitudinal center of the front surface wall toward each of opposed longitudinal ends of the front wall surface.

9. (Original) The wiper blade according to claim 1, wherein the cover member is made of one of a rubber material and an elastomer material and has a rubber hardness in a range of 40-80 Hs.

10. (Original) The wiper blade according to claim 9, wherein the cover member has a relatively thin wall thickness that maintains a tilt of the tilted outer surface of the front surface wall of the cover member, which forms the fin.

11. (Original) The wiper blade according to claim 1, wherein the at least one holding lever includes at least two holding levers, which are rotatably connected to each other.

12. (Original) The wiper blade according to claim 1, wherein:

the wiper blade is for a vehicle; and

the fin, which is made by the front surface wall, limits lifting of the wiper blade from the wiping surface when the vehicle is running.

13. (New) The wiper blade according to claim 1, wherein:

the cover member is made as a single member and has a single top opening, through which the at least one holding lever is connected to a corresponding wiper arm of the wiper system; and

the single top opening of the cover member is positioned at a longitudinal center of the cover member on a top side of the cover member that is opposite from the base end opening of the cover member.

14. (New) The wiper blade according to claim 1, wherein:

the cover member has a longitudinal top ridge, the longitudinal top ridge being located between the front surface wall and the rear surface wall of the cover member and extends in a longitudinal direction of the cover member; and

the top ridge of the cover member is displaced from a transverse center of the cover member on a rear side of the cover member in a transverse direction of the cover member that is perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the cover member, the rear side of the cover member being located at the rear surface wall.